



Afternoon Alert - Monday, August 21, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK, TBS, and TV Asahi led with reports on the start this morning of the U.S.-South Korea defense exercise "Ulchi-Freedom Guardian," while NTV and Fuji-TV gave top coverage to stories on the USS John S. McCain's collision with an oil tanker in the Strait of Malacca this morning, reporting that 10 Navy sailors are missing and five were injured.

INTERNATIONAL

DPRK has no intention to hold dialogue with U.S. right now

TV-Asahi took up the disclosure by an informed source based in North Korea that the Kim regime's top priority for now is to perfect nuclear and missile technology and that as the Korean People's Army has already assembled a three-stage ICBM and an SLBM, it is waiting for Kim's permission to go ahead with testing of these projectiles. The source underscored that Pyongyang has no plans to come to the negotiating table until such tests are completed.

- [Gist of joint news conference after Japan-U.S. 2+2 talks, Aug. 17](#) (Nikkei Evening edition)
- [The power of the alliance can surmount challenge of the North](#) (Sankei)
- [Editorial: Japan-U.S. alliance needs to be fleshed out further](#) (Nikkei)

- [Editorial: Deter North Korea's threats with bolstered Japan-U.S. alliance](#) (The Japan News)
- [Kono seeks early CTBT ratification](#) (The Japan News)
- [Commentary: New Russian ambassador is expected to improve relations with Japan](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan, Russia deputy foreign ministers agree on regular security dialogue](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan foreign minister to visit Mozambique, Ethiopia](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japanese students not to deliver speech at arms reduction conference](#) (Kyodo News)
- [LDP Diet members send letter to Ontario, Canada on bill to create Nanjing Massacre Remembrance Day](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Does Moon want to wreck Japan ties with shift on requisitioned workers?](#) (The Japan News)

POLITICS

- [LDP worried about losing two Lower House by-elections in October](#) (Mainichi)
- [Three Lower House by-elections to take place in October](#) (Yomiuri)
- [No end to exodus from DP](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Gov't mulls installing recordkeeping supervisors at each ministry](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Aug. 20, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Aug. 19, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Aug. 18, 2017](#) (Nikkei)

ECONOMY

- [Public opinion divided over govt plan to legalize casinos](#) (The Japan News)
- [BOJ chief denies end to ultra-easy money policy will cause market confusion: interview](#) (Mainichi)
- [JAXA to start minisatellite launch business](#) (The Japan News)

- [Editorial: Japan must mend ways, take lead in efforts to protect fishing resources](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Firm up economic foundations now for better long-term growth prospects](#) (The Japan News)
- [Local gov't leaders differ on need for consent of local gov'ts near NPPs to restart plants, Asahi survey](#) (Asahi)

SCIENCE

- [Japan successfully launches 3rd satellite of new GPS constellation](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Tokyo to begin marketing GPS successor in 2020](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [University of Tokyo develops tsunami observation technology using radar, GPS on aircraft](#) (Nikkei Evening edition)

SOCIETY

Life in Tokyo in aftermath of surrender

“NHK special” on Sunday aired a story about conditions in Tokyo following Japan’s surrender on Aug. 15, 1945, showing archived photos and film depicting such events as the return of more than six million Japanese soldiers and colonists from China and other nations, the severe food shortage and the black market, and the presence of the occupation forces and their impact on Japanese society. The network said that although the Sept. 22, 1945, document titled “U.S. Initial Post-Surrender Policy for Japan” stated that the influence of militarism will be totally eliminated from Japan’s political, economic, and social life, archived CIA documents, which were declassified in 2007, show that the Allied Occupation Forces pardoned some war criminals, including senior Imperial Japanese Army officers, in order to use them to collect information about the Soviet Union and China.

With revolutionary training regimen, Japanese sprinters take big (and quick) strides

“NHK Special” on Saturday featured Japanese sprinters who have recently made great achievements, including the winning of a bronze medal in the men’s 4x100 meters relay at the World Athletics Championships in London. Taking a close look at their training, the network said that an improved training environment and revolutionary training methods have been helping the athletes to fulfill their potential.

SECURITY

Yokosuka-based U.S. Navy ship collides with oil tanker in Malacca Strait

All broadcasters reported in their noon news programs on the collision between the USS John S. McCain, an Aegis-equipped destroyer belonging to the 7th Fleet and based in Yokosuka, and the oil tanker Alnic MC in the Strait of Malacca at around 6:24 a.m. (Japan time) on Monday. The U.S. Navy said that the port side of the John S. McCain was damaged in the collision but that the vessel is sailing under its own power. Ten crew members are missing, and five others were injured. The broadcasters mentioned that the USS Fitzgerald, another Yokosuka-based destroyer, collided with a container ship in waters off Shizuoka in June, resulting in the death of seven Navy sailors. NHK said the John S. McCain was heading to a port in Singapore after participating in the Freedom of Navigation operation in the South China Sea when it collided with the tanker. Fuji-TV said that the tanker is registered in Liberia.

- [Ospreys to be tentatively deployed at SDF camp](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe, US military chief vow to bolster defense together](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan notifies U.S. of guidelines review](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japanese expert says Japan-U.S. joint statement reflects sense of urgency](#) (Nikkei)
- [Governments, financial institutions targeted by untraceable 'fileless' malware](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan, U.K. effectuate ACSA](#) (Nikkei)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

U.S. labor union adopts motion opposing Futenma relocation to Henoko

Monday's Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo gave front-page coverage to the adoption on Saturday of a resolution by an influential U.S. labor union voicing its opposition to the FRF construction off Camp Schwab. During its biennial convention held in Anaheim, California, the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA) confirmed "solidarity with the people of Okinawa," urging Congress, municipal governments, and other labor groups in the U.S. to adopt similar motions in order to show respect to "democratic demands" made by Okinawa residents. According to the articles, members of an Okinawa delegation currently visiting the U.S. for enlisting public support in America for Governor Onaga's resolve to derail the FRF initiative received a warm reception when they took part in the event.

- [MOD Okinawa Bureau mulls changes to Henoko construction plan, may need governor's permission](#) (Okinawa Times)
- [Environment Ministry's regular monitoring of U.S. bases halted inexplicably since 2014](#) (Okinawa Times)

- [SDP lawmaker removed from in front of Camp Schwab's gate by police](#) (Okinawa Times)
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